

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

00:00:00

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN GERALD PEASE**, on April 5, 2005 at
3:00 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Gerald Pease, Chairman (D)
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)
Sen. John Brueggeman (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Dan Weinberg (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Todd Everts, Legislative Branch
Peg Holwick, Committee Secretary, Audio Technician

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 673, 3/29/2005; HB 769, 3/29/2005;
HB 512, 3/29/2005; HB 757, 3/29/2005
Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON HB 673

00:00:15

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. EDWARD BUTCHER (R), HD 29, opened the hearing on HB 673, Alternative driver education program.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:07:55 Hannah Estell, on behalf of self

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a01)

00:09:38 Raven Songer, on behalf of self

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a02)

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a03)

00:10:44 Ryan Songer, on behalf of self

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a04)

00:11:48 Bethany Estell, on behalf of self

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a05)

00:14:05 Georgianna Estelle, on behalf of self

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a06)

00:15:02 Becky Stockton, on behalf of self

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a07)

00:16:24 Elaine Sollie Herman, Eagle Forum

00:18:00 Trevis Butcher, Montana Coalition Home Educators
(MCHE)

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a08)

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a09)

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a10)

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a11)

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a12)

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a13)

00:23:54 Steve White, MCHE

00:24:29 Marissa Stockton, MCHE

Opponents' Testimony:

00:25:12 Steve Yeakel, Montana Traffic Educators Association

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a14)

00:27:24 Mike Harris, Montana Traffic Educators Association

Informational Testimony: None.

00:28:48

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:32:45

Closing by Sponsor:

[EXHIBIT](#)(his72a15)

HEARING ON HB 769

00:39:50

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. GEORGE GOLIE (D), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 769,
Creating the rail service competition council.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:42:18 SEN. TRUDI SCHMIDT, SD 11, GREAT FALLS

00:43:41 Lochiel Edwards, Montana Grain Growers

00:44:39 Chris Christiaens, Montana Farmers Union

00:45:21 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau

00:45:36 REP. JOHN WITT, HD 28, CARTER

00:45:53 Evan Barrett, Governor's Office of Economic
Development

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:47:06 Mike Halligan, Montana Rail Link

00:47:06

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:54:45

Closing by Sponsor:

HEARING ON HB 512

00:56:09

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. JOHN WITT (R), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 512, Appropriate federal funds for local rail freight assistance programs.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:01:50 Barbara Broberg, Montana Women Involved in Farm Economics
01:02:08 Lochiel Edwards, Montana Grain Growers
01:03:41 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau
01:03:54 Chris Christiaens, Montana Farm Union
01:04:36 SEN. JERRY BLACK, SD 14, SHELBY
01:04:59 Evan Barrett, Governor's Office of Economic Development

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

01:06:50

Closing by Sponsor:

HEARING ON HB 757

01:09:00

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. LLEW JONES (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 757, Revolving loan account for rehabilitation of railroad branch lines.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:12:26 Lochiel Edwards, Montana Grain Growers
01:13:04 Evan Barrett, Governor's Office of Economic Development
01:14:55 REP. JOHN WITT, HD 28, CARTER

01:15:20 **SEN. JERRY BLACK, SD 14, SHELBY**

01:15:43 **Mike Halligan, Washington Corporation, Montana Rail
Link**

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

01:16:14

Closing by Sponsor:

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:05 P.M.

SEN. GERALD PEASE, Chairman

PEG HOLWICK, Secretary

GP/ph

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([his72aad0.PDF](#))